

Message Text

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10

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-11 SAJ-01 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 EB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00

COME-00 OPIC-03 CIEP-01 INT-05 AF-06 /102 W

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R 081715Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8240

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PO, AU

SUBJECT: VISIT OF PORTUGUESE PRIME MINISTER TO AUSTRIA

REF: VIENNA 2707

1. PRIME MINISTER AZEVEDO OF PORTUGAL ON FINAL DAY OF THREE-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT TO AUSTRIA CALLED ON SEVERAL POLITICAL LEADERS, INCLUDING NATIONALRAT AND FEDERATION OF TRADE UNION PRESIDENT BENYA, FOLLOWING PREVIOUS DAY'S VISITS TO INDUSTRIAL CITIES OUTSIDE VIENNA. HE DEPARTED AUSTRIA FOLLOWING LATE AFTERNOON PRESS CONFERENCE APRIL 7 (SEPTTEL).

2. IN EXCHANGE OF TOASTS AT DINNER APRIL 5, CHANCELLOR KREISKY SAID AUSTRIA HAD FULL UNDERSTANDING FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PORTUGAL'S SITUATION AS COUNTRY MADE SUDDENLY SMALLER

AND NEEDING TO LIVE UNDER SHARPLY DIFFERENT CIRCUMSTANCES.
HE SAID PORTUGAL SHOULD BE HELPED AND AUSTRIA WOULD DO
SO WITHIN ITS CAPABILITY; AUSTRIA WOULD, FOR EXAMPLE,
CONTRIBUTE ITS \$15 MILLION SHARE OF \$100 MILLION
DEVELOPMENT CREDIT EFTA COUNTRIES INTENDED TO PROVIDE.
AZEVEDO REPLIED PORTUGUESE WERE IMPRESSED TO SEE HOW
EFFORTS OF AUSTRIAN PEOPLE, HELPED BY FRIENDLY COUNTRIES,
HAD BROUGHT AUSTRIA TO ITS GOAL. HE ALSO INVITED
KREISKY TO PAY RETURN VISIT TO PORTUGAL. AZEVEDO TOLD
PRESS BEFORE DEPARTURE THAT HIS FIRST FOREIGN TRIP AS
PRIME MINISTER WAS TO AUSTRIA BECAUSE OF MANY SIMILARITIES
BETWEEN PORTUGAL AND AUSTRIA, AMONG WHICH HE MENTIONED
AUSTRIA'S "POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE."

3. COMMENT: MFA SOUTHWEST EUROPE DESK OFFICER TOLD
EMBOFF VISIT INVITATION WAS EXTENDED TO AZEVEDO AT TIME
WHEN SUCH GESTURE WAS CONSIDERED IMPORTANT FOR
PORTUGUESE PM; OBJECTIVE NOW WAS PRIMARILY TO PROVIDE
EVIDENCE OF CONTINUING EUROPEAN SUPPORT FOR PORTUGUESE
MODERATES. DISCUSSIONS WERE THUS WITHOUT MUCH SUBSTANCE,
EVEN EFTA CREDIT HAVING BEEN AGREED UPON IN PRINCIPLE BEFORE
VISIT. MFA OFFICIAL SAID, HOWEVER, THAT AUSTRIANS
HAD FOUND FOREIGN MINISTER ANTUNES MUCH MORE RESERVED
THAN PREVIOUSLY TOWARD EXPANDING PORTUGUESE COOPERATION
WITH EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES, AND PLACING MUCH MORE STRESS
ON NEED FOR PORTUGAL TO IDENTIFY AND COOPERATE WITH
THIRD WORLD. MFA OFFICIAL COULD NEITHER CONFIRM NOR
DENY THAT AZEVEDO HAD MENTIONED AUSTRIAN NEUTRALITY
AS POSSIBLE MODEL FOR PORTUGAL, AS WAS REPORTED IN
PRESS (REFTEL), BUT SAID SUBJECT WAS NOT RAISED IN
FORMAL DISCUSSIONS.BUCHANAN

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